



IAgrE Technician E-News

Welcome to the first IAgrE Technicians E-News

We hope this E-News will prove to be full of useful and interesting information about us and the world you work in. We also hope to bring you loads of helpful advice about developing your career, where to get help and information about moving forward plus further education and training opportunities. We also plan to update you on benefits and developments to the LTA Scheme.

This e-news will be around three times a year and in each edition we hope to provide you with the following information:

- All about LTA
- Frequently asked Questions
- Who to contact to have your questions answered
- Links to relevant engineering and technology news from the web
- Technician Profiles

We would also love to hear your views about this newsletter, IAgrE membership, the LTA scheme, in fact anything that you would like to share with us.

Enjoy reading.....

Regards from the IAgrE Team



All about LTA

With the backing of the major manufacturers of agricultural (including milking equipment), horticultural, forestry and ground care equipment, the Landbased Technician

Accreditation schemes (LTA) have been developed by AEA and MEA, in conjunction with IAgRE, with the support of BAGMA, on behalf of the land based engineering sector.

The objectives of the schemes are to provide a nationwide means of benchmarking, monitoring and assessing the competence of technicians employed within the sector. The LTA schemes will also provide encouragement and recognition for both employers and technicians who voluntarily commit to continual professional development in pursuit of technical support excellence.

Becoming an Engineering Technician (EngTech) could help advice your career

The EngTech eBook, is a definitive guide about how to advance your career in engineering by becoming an Engineering Technician.

[Download your copy now and find out how EngTech status can:](#)

- Gain a professional titles that recognises your hard work and experience
- Enhance your employability
- Stand-out from the crowd
- Enjoy greater influence within your organisation
- Have access to lifelong learning resources

Who to ask for help

Hi I'm Alison Chapman and I'm often the first point of contact for anyone calling the IAgRE secretariat at Cranfield. I deal with all the membership applications that arrive throughout the year and can advise you on the best grade of membership and registration.

I also play a key role within the organisation and am responsible for running the IAgRE Membership Committee and Education and Training Committee.

I would also love to hear your views about this newsletter, IAgRE membership, the LTA scheme, in fact anything that you would like to share with us.

Alison Chapman
IAgRE Membership Secretary





Want to upgrade from a LTA2 to a LTA3

Registration at LTA3 is for the skilled and experienced technician who has successfully attended a series of assessed courses – usually offered by a manufacturer. You will probably be a product specialist so most of these technicians will represent the majority of dealer technical staff.

Motivated and skilled individuals will be encouraged to progress to LTA3. It is expected that registrants to LTA3 will have been in relevant employment for a minimum of 4 to 5 years.

Visit the LTA website at <http://www.iagre.org/lta/intro> or contact Alison Chapman at membership@iagre.org if you need help.

Spotlight on LTA Level 4 Master Technician

Chris Jacques is a Level 4 LTA Master Technician and Precision Farming Specialist with Rea Valley Tractors based in Newport Shropshire.

Founded over 25 years ago it supplies an extensive range of new and used tractors and agricultural machinery from four depots across the Midlands and Mid Wales. Its customer base is mixed and covers dairy and livestock, small family farms to large commercialised concerns of 3000 plus acres, plus contractors and hire equipment companies.

Can you describe your career progression to date?

Before I went to school I was massively interested in tractors, diggers, JCB's in fact anything mechanical. When I was 10 or 12 I got jobs on milk rounds and worked on farms in the school holidays. When I left school I had a handful of good qualifications in Maths, English and Science and did 12 months working on a farm.

I then had a bit of a career wobble. I couldn't decide whether I wanted to do agriculture or engineering.

I went to Reaseheath College and did an NDA in agriculture which made me realise it was the engineering/mechanical side I was more interested in.

At that point I left and went to work for a large, 'ahead of its time' dairy farm where I ended up being a tractor driver eventually managing a team of 3 and working quite closely with the local John Deere dealer.



Chris pictured left

Describe a typical day?

It's usually pretty hectic, I've taken an extract from my diary which lists the visits made on a typical 12 hour day:

Early morning visit to deliver and fit an ex-demo Auto-Trac kit sold to a customer with an Auto-Trac ready 7530 tractor and train it's operator

Fit a GPS switch to a customer's existing Amazone fertiliser spreader, set up and train the operator.

Add section control activation to a customer's GreenStar 2630 display, set up on Kuhn Isobus fertiliser spreader and train the operator. Also change receiver bracket on a John Deere 8360R and repair receiver harness on a John Deere 7930 tractor.

Remove AutoTrac activation from a hire tractor and store in activation bank on way back to the depot

Prepare AMS hire kit for collection and add SF2 subscription

Deal with AMS support calls throughout the day

What piece of advice would you give someone wanting to become a land-based technician?

Firstly, be sure it's what you want to do and secondly if it is then there is no better or a more rewarding career to pursue especially if you are interested in technology, people and the outdoor life.

Has membership of IAgRE helped you?

It helps to keep me up to speed with industry events and developments.

What skills do you need in your job?

You need good analytical abilities and be able to look outside the box. You also have to be calm under pressure, have good customer facing skills and a flexible approach.

Has an LTA qualification helped in your career?

It has definitely put structure and recognition into it. The LTA 4 assessment was one of the hardest things I've ever done and I think LTA has influenced manufacturers training programmes, as they are definitely tougher today.

What are the most interesting new technology developments since you started work?

The whole precision farming boom and recently the development of intelligent machines connected to the internet.

Could IAgRE help you further?

Yes by adding a recognition path for those that have chosen to specialise in Precision Farming.

In the News



McConnel Radio Controlled Unmanned Tractor | RoboPower

Is McConnel's Robopower a glimpse into the future of farm machinery? The company's Robopower is one of the first to be made available to buy. It is designed with

digger-style tracks and an engine on top but ... no cab.

[Take a look at the Robopower in action](#)



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